STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

J South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
for Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ______________________ Historic: Haskell House
2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: ______________________ COUNTY: Middlesex
3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 264 Court Street
4. OWNER(S): Wesleyan University ______________________ PUBLIC _ PRIVATE
5. USE: Present: Apartments Historic: Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes _ no
   Interior accessible: x yes, explain ______ with permission ______ no

DESCRIPTION
7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Second Empire DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1873
8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   x clapboard
   x wood shingle
   x board & batten
   x aluminum siding
   x other: wood trim
   x brick
   x asphalt siding
   x stucco
   x concrete: type: ______
   x cut stone: type: brownstone
   x foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   x wood frame; x post and beam x balloon
   x load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   x other: ______

10. ROOF: type:
    x gable _ flat _ mansard _ monitor _ sawtooth
    _ gambrel _ shed _ hip _ round _ other ______
    x wood shingle _ roll asphalt _ tin _ x slate
    x asphalt shingle _ built up _ tile _ other ______

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 51'x23'
12. CONDITION: Structural: x excellent _ x good _ fair _ deteriorated
    Exterior: x excellent _ x good _ fair _ deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when: Rear two story staircase added; siding added
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: ______
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    _ barn _ shed _ x garage _ other landscape features or buildings: ______
    _ carriage house _ shop _ garden __________
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    x open land _ woodland _ residential scattered buildings visible from site
    _ woodland _ commercial __ industrial __ rural __ high building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: The Haskell House is sited typically for the upper Court Street area; set back from the street with small side yards and a yard to the rear. The only example of the Second Empire style in this area, this house bridges the transition from early mid-19th century Italianate buildings to later Queen Anne architecture, in an area gradually developed since the beginning of the 19th century.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
   Etched glass window in front door
   Ornate window heads with scroll saw decoration
   Second story windows west side rear wing have unusual (full window height) thin protruding brackets

SIGNIFICANCE

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1872 Elihu W.N. Starr and Samuel Babcock purchased and sub-divided a portion of the Russell Estate (bounded by Pearl and High Streets). This structure was built in 1873-74 on a lot division acquired by John and Maria Haskell. Haskell was a partner in the firm of Willard & Haskell, manufacturers of sash, blinds and doors; and dealers of lumber and other construction materials. It is possible that much of the finish detail in this house was supplied by Willard & Haskell. The house remained in the Haskell family until 1921 when Mary T. Vinal acquired it. In 1933 title transferred to Sebastian Pappalardo, and in 1958 the house was acquired by Wesleyan for use as faculty apartments.

This 2½ story side hall structure retains most of its original elaborate ornamentation, both interior and exterior. Although the installation of asbestos siding has altered the exterior texture and appearance, the scale, remaining details, and distinctive Mansard roof identify this structure as one of the important examples of the Second Empire style in Middletown.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Robert Svec
date: 12/77 view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 5, #16A

COMPiled BY:

name: John E. Reynolds  date: 3/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Middletown City Directories; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:
   _X_ none known   _highways   _vandalism   _developers   _other: ___________________________
   _renewal_   _private_   _deterioration_   _zoning_   _explanation_: ___________________________